



Recycling Lines

Electronic Newsletter

May/June 2009

Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Environmental Enhancement

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DEQ's Community Involvement Initiative: The Department of Environmental Quality is dedicated to helping the public better understand DEQ's role in protecting the environment, and to involving the public more effectively in environmental decision making.

Welcome to Recycling Lines. If you have suggestions on future topics for the newsletter, please send the information to Steve Coe at gscoc@deq.virginia.gov.

Economic Stimulus in Your Own Backyard — Recycling Programs Create Jobs, Jobs, Jobs

EPA's Pay-As-You-Throw Sprint 2009 Bulletin offers the following information: We all know that recycling conserves natural resources, but a vital added benefit is job creation.

Job Creation: Reuse and Recycling vs. Disposal

Type of Operation **Jobs per 10,000 TPY**

Product Reuse

Computer Reuse 296

Textile Reclamation 85

Misc. Durables Reuse 62

Wooden Pallet Repair 28

Recycling-based **25**

Manufacturers

Paper Mills 18

Glass Product 26

Manufacturers

Plastic Product 93

Manufacturers

Conventional Materials **10**

Recovery Facilities

Composting 4

Landfill and Incineration **1**

Source: Institute for Local Self-Reliance, Washington, DC, 1997.

The Northeast Recycling Council's (NERC) U.S. Recycling and Economic Information (REI) Study Update released in February 2009 demonstrates that nationwide recycling and remanufacturing activities could account for approximately 2.5 million jobs in recycling and recycling reliant industries, and more than \$400 billion in annual sales.

Plastic Bag Recovery and Recycling Projects

Two Virginia localities will be using special legislated funding to set up recycling programs for plastic bags in 2009. The City of Alexandria will use a \$10,000 grant to develop a pilot bag collection network using schools and a shopping center area. Isle of Wight County will use a \$28,000 grant to develop a pilot bag collection program in an area shopping center, and will also work with local schools on a plastic bag collection competition. Both grant projects will begin in late summer or early fall of 2009.

Did You Know?

- ✓ Virginia's Computer Recovery and Recycling Act goes into effect on July 1, 2009. All computer manufacturers whose products are sold in Virginia must prepare a recycling plan for their products, post the plan on their web site, and notify DEQ of the posting and plan. The plan must be convenient and at no cost to the consumer.
- ✓ Poquoson's new \$18 million elementary school uses geothermal energy for heating and cooling, natural lighting, and water-conserving plumbing.

Peninsula Area Going Green

An article in the Daily Press highlights some of the ways Peninsula communities are going "green":

Waste Management's landfill on Rt. 17 near Gloucester will harvesting methane to generate electricity.

Hampton replaced one-third of its traffic lights with LED bulbs.

Hampton Bay Days festival will require recycling and ban Styrofoam products.

Gloucester uses five propane-powered school buses.

Calendar of Events

June 3

Recycling Markets Development Council meeting

June 18

EPA Webinar 1:00-2:30 PM EST. Industrial Materials Recycling 101. Visit

<http://www.epa.gov/epawaste/rcc/web-academy/index.htm>

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